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Message Text

SECRET

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12
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 TRSE-00 INRE-00

(ISO) W
---------- 058506
O R 100500Z NOV 74
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9193
INFO AMEMBASSY BRAZILIA
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
AMEMBASSY KINSHAHSA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T JIDDA 6558

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ENGR, SA, US, BR, FR
SUBJECT: SAUDI REACTION TO FRENCH PROPOSAL

REF: A. JIDDA 6443
B. SECTO 483
C. BRAZILIA 8420

BEGIN SUMMARY: KING FAYSAL DID NOT RESPOND TO FRENCH EMISSARIES' PROPOSAL TO ISSUE JOINT INVITATIONS TO CONSUMER-PRODUCER CONFERENCE. KING DID WELCOME FRENCH INITIATIVE BUT SAID SUBJECTS OF OTHER COMMODITIES WOULD HAVE TO BE TAKEN UP. SAUDIS UNAWARE FRENCH HAD ALREADY APPROACHED BRAZIL AND SURMISE THIS WAS NOT FORMAL INVITATION. END SUMMARY

1. AHMAD ZAKI YAMANI, SAUDI MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, TOLD
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AMBASSADOR LAST MIGHT (NOV 8 THAT HIS TALK WITH

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LIPKOWSKI WAS "FRIENDLY AND USEFUL." MR. LIPKOWSKI HAD
TOLD THE KING THAT THE FRENCH PLAN WAS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS
YAMANI'S--EVEN THE GUEST LIST WAS THE SAME--AND PROPOSED
THAT THE FRENCH AND THE SAUDIS ISSUE JOINT INVITATIONS
TO THE CONFERENCE.

2. YAMANI SAID HE PREPARED FOR THE KING HIS RESPONSE TO
THE FRENCH. FAISAL'S LETTER WELCOMED THE FRENCH INITIATIVE;
HE SAID HE THOUGHT THIS COULD BRING ALL PRODUCERS AND
CONSUMERS CLOSER TOGETHER, BUT ADDED THAT OTHER COMMODITIES
WOULD HAVE TO BE INCLUDED ON THE DISCUSSION. (YAMANI
SAID THE KING HIMSELF INSISTS ON THIS POINT AS IT
WOULD BE THE ONLY WAY OPEC--READ ALGIERS--APPROVAL FOR THE
CONFERENCE COULD BE WON; BUT HE REPEATED (REF A) THAT HE
DID NOT THINK THIS WOULD TAKE MUCH OF THE CONFERENCE TIME.
THE AMBASSADOR SAID HE FEARED THE OPPOSITE; THE WHOLE
CONFERENCE COULD BOG DOWN IN INTERMINABLE DISCUSSIONS OF
NICKEL PRICES--A SUBJECT PROBABLY DEAR TO THE HEART OF
ZAIRE).

3. THE KING DID NOT RPT NOT RESPOND TO THE FRENCH SUG-
GESTION FOR A JOINT SAUDI INVITATION.

4. YAMANI WAS SURPRISED WHEN THE AMBASSADOR TOLD HIM THAT
THE FRENCH HAD APPARENTLY ALREADY ASKED BRAZIL AND BRAZIL
HAD ACCEPTED. (REF C) YAMANI SAID HE THOUGHT IT MORE
PROBABLY THAT THE FRENCH HAD INFORMALLY INQUIRED OF
THE BRAZILIANS IF THEY MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN SUCH A
MEETING IF ONE WERE HELD. AS FAR AS HE KNEW, NO FORMAL
INVITATIONS HAD YET BEEN ISSUED, EXCEPT INSOFAR AS THE
FRENCH MESSAGE TO SAUDI ARABIA AND A SIMILAR MESSAGE
TO IRAN COULD BE CONSIDERED INVITATIONS.
AKINS

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